



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/321,605	05/28/1999	NAOYA SASHIDA	990535	6725

23850 7590 08/27/2002

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP
1725 K STREET, NW.
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

CHEN, JACK S J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2813	[REDACTED]

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

28

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

O/n

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/321,605	Applicant(s) Sashida et al.
	Examiner Jack Chen	Art Unit 2813
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status		
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.		
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.		
Disposition of Claims		
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-22</u> is/are pending in the application.		
4a) Of the above, claim(s) <u>4, 5, and 17-20</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-3, 6-16, 21, and 22</u> is/are rejected.		
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.		
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.		
Application Papers		
9) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).		
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.		
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120		
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).		
a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).		
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.		
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.		
Attachment(s)		
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). <u>5, 18, 26</u>		
4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		

Art Unit: 2813

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election of Species III in Paper No. 27 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)). Accordingly, claims 4 and 5 are withdrawn from further consideration.
2. The amendment filed 2/15/2002 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: Re claims 1 and 21, the phrase "the wiring composed from *different material* from the local interconnection".

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-16, 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. See above.

Art Unit: 2813

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 9, 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 9, line 3, the term “and/or” is unclear.

Regarding claims 14 and 16, the term “the impurity diffusion layer” is unclear since there are more than one of them in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was

Art Unit: 2813

not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b).

Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

8. Claims 1-3, 9, 11-16, 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mochizuki et al., U.S./5,990,507.

Mochizuki et al. discloses a method of forming a semiconductor device, which comprises forming a couple of impurity diffusion layers S/D in a substrate; forming a first insulating film 10 (figs. 21 or 22, which is SiO₂) covering the substrate; forming a lower electrode 17 (Pt) of a capacitor on the first insulating film; forming an oxide dielectric film 18 (PZT) of the capacitor on the lower electrode; forming an upper electrode 19 (Pt) of the capacitor on the oxide dielectric film; forming a second insulating film 13 (SiO₂) for covering the capacitor; forming a first opening for electrically connecting the impurity diffusion layer and a second opening on the upper electrode in the first and second insulating films, by etching a part of the second insulating film and a part of the first insulating film (figs. 21 or 22); forming a metal 111 (titanium nitride, figs. 21 or 22) film on the second insulating film for connecting electrically the impurity diffusion layer via the first opening and the upper electrode via the second opening; forming a local interconnection in a range which pass through the first opening and the second opening and contains at least a region where the upper electrode contacts the oxide dielectric film (see figs. 21 or 22; layer 111, which shows the local interconnection in a range which pass through the first opening and the second opening, and contains at least a region where the upper electrode contacts

Art Unit: 2813

the oxide dielectric film, 18 contacts with 19), by patterning the metal film, or forming a local interconnection covering an entire portion of the upper electrode with an area which is larger than an area where the upper electrode contacts with the oxide dielectric film in a plan view (i.e., at a plane parallel to the drawing figures, i.e., see figs.17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23), in a range which passes through the first opening and the second opening, by patterning the metal film 111 fig. 21 or 22, also see fig. 19, layers 22/11' or 36/11' or fig. 20, layer 22, or fig. 21, layers 111/22/11' or fig. 22, layers 22/11' or fig. 23, layers 11/22); wherein the local interconnection is a blocking layer for preventing a diffusion of a redundant to the oxide dielectric film (since the same material (TiN) is used for the metal layer, which is the same as applicant's claimed invention); and forming a third insulating film 30 for covering the local interconnection; forming a third opening for electrically connecting to the other of the couple of impurity diffusion layers (fig. 21), by etching a part of the third insulating film; and forming a wiring 38 electrically connecting to the other of the couple of impurity diffusion layers, the wiring composed from different material (for example, Al) from the local interconnection, see figs. 1-28, cols. 1-40.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 2813

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 6-8, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mochizuki et al., U.S./5,990,507 in view of Kawai et al., U.S./6,022,774.

Mochizuki et al. disclosed above; however, Mochizuki et al. does not explicitly shows the second or third insulating films (SiO₂) are formed by using silane; and the second insulating film (SiO₂) is formed by using TEOS and carrying out a step of oxygen-annealing after forming the second opening.

Kawai et al. discloses a method of forming a semiconductor device, which comprises forming an impurity diffusion layer in a substrate; forming a first insulating film covering the substrate; forming a lower electrode 31 of a capacitor on the first insulating film; forming an oxide dielectric film 32 of the capacitor on the lower electrode; forming an upper electrode 33 of the capacitor on the oxide dielectric film; forming a second insulating film 34 (SiO₂, by using TEOS or silane) for covering the capacitor; forming a first opening which exposes the impurity diffusion layer and a second opening which exposes the upper electrode in the first and second insulating films, by etching a part of the second insulating film and a part of the first insulating film (figs. 2G); forming a metal film (titanium nitride, which is the same as applicant's claimed invention) on the second insulating film via the first opening and the upper electrode via the second opening, forming a local interconnection covering an entire portion of the upper electrode with an area which is larger than an area where the upper electrode contacts with the oxide dielectric film in a plan view (i.e., at a plane parallel to the drawing figures, i.e., figs. 1F, 2H), wherein the metal is a

Art Unit: 2813

blocking layer for preventing a diffusion of a redundant to the oxide dielectric film; and carrying out various steps of oxygen annealing after each the etching steps such will improve the oxide dielectric layer, see fig. 1 A-2H and cols. 1-8.

Therefore, the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the standard process of Mochizuki et al. by using TEOS or silane to form the second insulating film (SiO₂) and carrying out a step of oxygen-annealing after forming the second opening as taught by Kawai et al. in order to improve the oxide dielectric layer characteristics.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-5838. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri, can be reached on (703)306-2794.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

Jack Chen

August 22, 2002

C. Chaudhuri
Chandra Chaudhuri
Primary Examiner